

Pietro Bava House
River Street Historic District
40 N. River Street
San Jose
Santa Clara County
California

HABS No.

CA-2363

HABS
CAL
43-SANJOS,
30-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Western Region
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California 94107

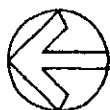
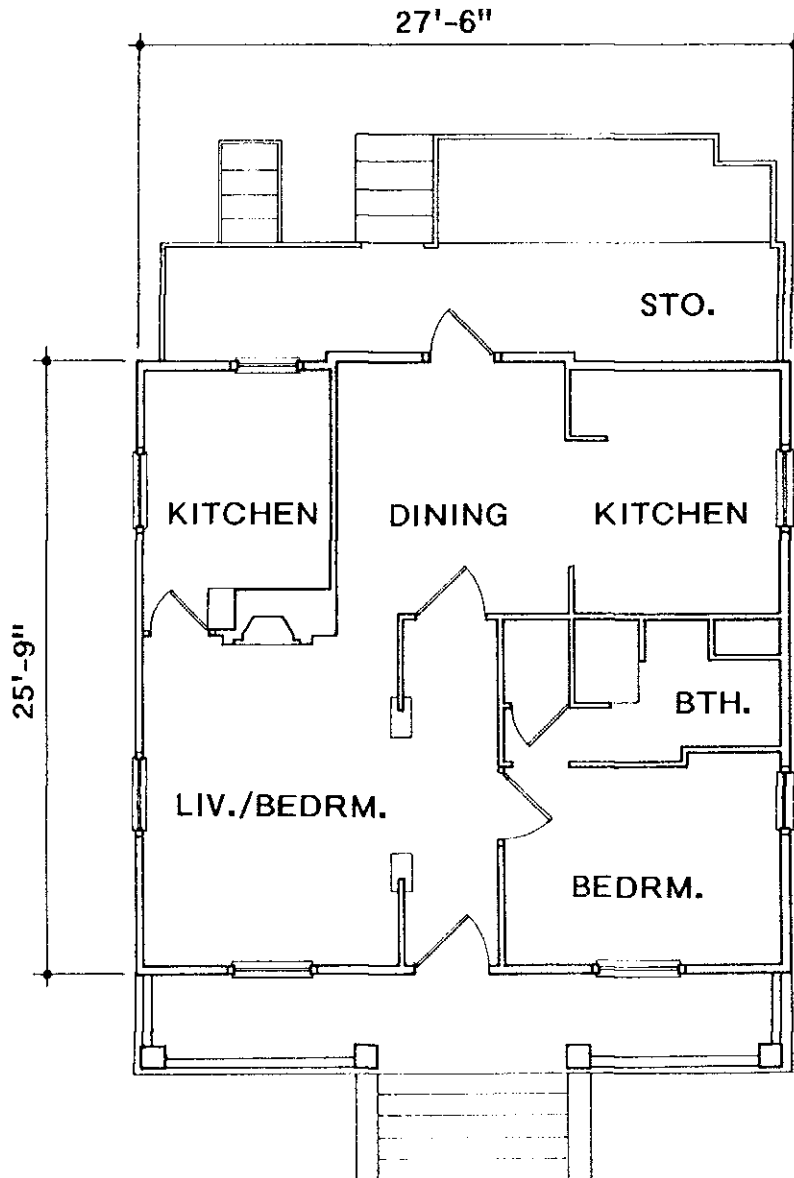
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

Pietro Bava House

HABS No. CA-2363

- Location:** 40 North River Street, River Street Historic District
San Jose, Santa Clara County, California
UTM Coordinates: 10-597740-4132250
- Significance:** The Pietro Bava House, due to its architectural integrity and contribution to the urban fabric, forms and integral part of the River Street Historic District, a rare intact late nineteenth and early twentieth century working class neighborhood in San Jose.
- Description:** The Pietro Bava House is a one and one half story wood framed cottage with a double-sloping gabled roof with the ends parallel to the street; it possesses a central corridor around which the rooms are arranged. The walls are covered with clapboard siding with composition shingle on the roof. A veranda, extending the length of the facade, is supported by four square posts with simple capitals. The right (southern) bay of the veranda has been enclosed with thin plywood walls attached to the wooden railing and columns. The front (west) elevation contains a fixed, shuttered window in the enclosure. The main portion of the house shows characteristics of the California bungalow (exposed rafters, broad veranda, overhanging eaves) but the veranda detail suggests a neo-classical influence. The plan of this house has been modified to include two rental units with two kitchens.
- History:** The house was constructed around 1905. It was occupied by Pietro Bava, the cook and proprietor of Zaro's Grill on Santa Clara Street, from 1915 to the early 1920s. Italian-born Bava immigrated to the United States in 1902 and settled in San Jose shortly thereafter. It is likely that this building and similar houses at this end (southern) of River Street were built by Felix Savio, a home builder who lived at 44 North River Street. After the Bavas moved out (they are last listed in the directories in 1923), the Savios purchased the property (they are listed as the owners in a 1924 block map) and rented it out as one or two units.
- Sources:** California Historic Resources Inventory Form, prepared by Stephen D. Mikesell, 1988.
San Jose City Directories.
San Jose Block Map, 1924.
- Historian:** Hardlines: Design & Delineation
Columbus, Ohio & Bethesda, Maryland
July - October, 1993



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

$1/8" = 1' - 0"$